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SUGGESTION AWARDS COMMITTEE SPECIAL PANEL OF THE  
CLANDESTINE SERVICES MEETING, 24 January 1968

SUGGESTION NO. 67-305: dated 1 May 1967

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[REDACTED]  
Electronics Engineer  
Directorate of Science and Technology/OSP

SUBJECT: Improved Method of Secure Verbal  
Communications

A. Summary of Suggestion

The suggester proposed the use of a new technique called "Cued Speech" devised by Dr. Orin Cornett of Gallaudet College. It is a simple and practical means of insuring private conversation in sensitive areas. He said that whereas sign language and lip reading are difficult skills to acquire, cued speech is not. It has been learned by people in less than one day and fluency can be achieved with from 10 to 30 hours of instruction.

B. Evaluation

1. Foreign Intelligence Staff and Technical Services Division concluded that the suggester apparently misunderstood the Cued Speech System. It would not actually help against audio penetration. In simplest terms, Cued Speech is a system of talking and using a small number of finger and hand signs to help deaf people who are trying to read your lips. The signs help them distinguish between certain vowels and consonants which may look similar on the lips.

2. During use of the system the talker still talks, however, and his voice, while not heard by his deaf partners, would still be picked up by the microphones. The claim that the system can be learned in 10 to 30 hours means only that a normal speaker can learn to speak and use the signs to help deaf listeners in 10 to 30 hours. It does not mean that a person can learn to read lips with the help of Cued Speech in this short a time. That would take much longer. For our staff overseas to use Cued Speech, we would all learn to read lips and use Cued Speech with each other.

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GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

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C. Special Panel Recommendation


Decline with Letter of Thanks.

D. Decision of Chairman, Suggestion Awards Committee

✓ Approved LOT Award

                     Disapproved 3 FEB 68 Date

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Robert S. Wattles  
Chairman  
Suggestion Awards Committee

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